The Bible & Daily Living

About corruption in the clergy

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
CORRUPT CLERGY
Lesson for August 14, 1983
Bible Study Passages: I Samuel 1:3; 2:12-17; 22-25; 4:11
INTRODUCTION

In every area of life we will encounter corruption. It appears that no profession or vocation is exempt from immoral behavior. Corruption can be found in politics, business, and religion. People without principles tend to break the laws of God and man.

The world in which we live offers many tempting choices. The opportunity to sin abounds in our society. Everyday the paper brings us news of corruption and graft in political and business circles. Watergate continues to stand out as a blemish upon our nation's history.

One of the last places you would expect to see corruption is in the church. But we are aware, however, that even in religious circles we find corrupt clergy. Some of the actions and activities of those in church leadership positions are morally questionable. When a minister uses people to build his own empire he is committing gross sin.

This week our study leads us to look at the corruption of two priests in Old Testament times. Hophni and Phinehas bribed worshippers and took money from them to support their own needs and wants.

Priests Without Principles (I Samuel 1:3; 2:12-17)

The scriptures tell us something very revealing about Hophni and Phinehas, namely, "...they knew not the Lord" (I Samuel 2:12). These two young priests were guilty of stealing from the people who brought sacrifices to the Lord at the Shiloh temple. Here is a case of religious professionals who exploited the people for their own gain.

People without principles tend to live only for themselves. The rights and needs of others become less and less important as they seek to demand their rights and supply their needs.

But it's the person with outstanding character who sometimes takes a turn for the worse. Such a person may be highly respected in the community where she/he resides, but then we see them stumble. It's as if there was a flaw in their character all the time.

Perhaps there is a flaw in every character, the potential to trip up and commit corrupt activities. Our only hope is that we can allow the grace of God to forgive our flaws.

A Parent's Concern (I Samuel 2:22-25)

When the father of Hophni and Phinehas heard of their corrupt activities, he was very displeased. Here were two priests who committed shameful sexual acts within the temple walls. Nothing was sacred in the eyes of these two priests. Prostitution and sex orgies abounded.

When Eli confronted his two sons they would not listen. They only ignored their father and went about doing as they liked. One wonders whether Eli had early on disciplined his sons, for when we fail to discipline our children we can't fully blame them when they go wrong. Children need structures and fences to help them in their growth. Without structures a child may feel very insecure and go in many directions.

The Tragedy Of Corruption (I Samuel 4:1-22)

In the book of Numbers a verse says, "...be sure your sin will find you out." Sin usually has a way of finding its way into the light. The dark deeds of people usually find their way into the eyes of the public. Sin may pay, but only for a short time. In the end the sinner falls on his/her not so pretty face.

The scripture tells us that the two young priests were killed when the Philistines and the Israelites were in battle. The ark of the covenant was brought into battle as a good luck sign. Unfortunately, the "luck" was not on the side of the Israelites.

The news of his sons' deaths and the capture of the ark so distressed Eli that he, too, fell over and died of a broken neck. Sin is like a snowball rolling down a hill; it gathers momentum and takes everyone in its path.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP)

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Tent revival slated at Harvest Time church

An old-fashioned tent revival service will be held at Harvest Time Baptist Church on Route 24 between Concord and Rustburg starting Aug. 10.

Guest speaker will be the Rev. Roger Ware. Services will be held at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. For further information, call 237-5811. The Rev. John Caldwell is pastor.

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Constance Hope Gunter baptized on August 7

Constance Hope Gunter, 8 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P.M. Gunter Sr., was baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, on the 7th day of August 1983.

The baptism took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Bryant of Lynchburg with the Rev. Robert J. Wilkerson of Crewe officiating.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryant were hosts for a poolside luncheon served buffet style immediately following the baptisimal ceremony.

Others present were Jamie and Christy Bryant, children of the hosts, Betty and Cecil Huddleston, Shirley Gowin of Richmond, Eliza and Washington Heath, of Buckingham, Irene and Rogers Norman, Audrey Ragland, Hallie Childress, Joyce and Todd Loveday, Florence and Lawrence Amos, Nellie, Cathy and Billy Bryant, Donna, Pauline and Mitchell Gunter, all of Appomattox.

Sweeney

Classic

slated

Plans are now underway for the 5th annual Joe Sweeney 10K Classic roadrace, which is sponsored again this year by the Farmers National Bank.

The race is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, in conjunction with the annual railroad festival. Start time is 1 p.m. from Appomattox County High School on Rt. 727.

Race applicants have been printed and mailed to previous applicants. Applications are available at Farmers National Bank, the Times-Virginian and the Town Office.

Of interest this year is the addition of a prize drawing for all race participants. Race director Dick Smith reports that many nice prizes have already been donated. During the next several months, he hopes to secure many more. This added attraction will give all runners a chance to be winners.

Smith wants to stress all area runners that with almost two months until race day, there is plenty of time to train for the Joe Sweeney 10K. For those who aren't running as much as 6.2 miles, increase your training distances gradually to avoid injuries. You don't have to be a fast runner or a long-distance runner to participate. Set October 8 and the Joe Sweeney Classic as your goal. Pick up an application now.

If you have questions about the race, the race course, or training, contact Dick Smith at 352-8717 after 6:30 p.m.

Van Plan

begins

Information on the Virginia Van Plan and ride-sharing is now available by dialing a new toll-free telephone number, 1-800-V A N - PLAN. The Virginia

(Continued on page 5)

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Flounder Fillets Fresh-Dressed Lb. 2.49
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SAVE 40¢ Lb. Pork Sausage Jamestown Hot or Mild Lb. 79¢
SAVE 20¢ Pkg. Meat Franks Luter's Old Fashioned (Beef 1.19) 12 Oz. Pkg. 99¢
SAVE 30¢ Lb. Sliced Bologna Smithfield Smokehouse Regular Lb. 1.19
Pillsbury Cake Mixes Pillsbury Plus 18½ Oz. Box 59¢
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Offer good thru August 14, 1983 in Appomattox Food World's, Only! None sold to Dealers. We Reserve the right to limit quantities.
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Blue Ridge Presbytery holds informal ceremony

Blue Ridge Presbytery recently held an informal groundbreaking service on the site of the proposed Retreat Center located at Camp Hat Creek near Brookneal, Va.

"This is a four-year dream come true," commented Dr. Kurtis Hess, General Presbyter of the 95 churches that raised $530,000 toward the project, "and every member of our Presbytery should have a feeling of pride as this Center becomes a reality."

The beautiful stone and wood structure, designed by Cress-Rhoades and Associates, overlooks the camp lake and accommodates up to 40 overnight guests. It will be a two-level, fully heated and air conditioned building of 9,000 square feet containing 14 bedrooms. The major conference room and the dining room, each with its own fireplace, will be the focus of group activity along with the commons area on the second level. Other components of the Center include a kitchen, lounge, office, first aid and storage rooms, and a screened-in porch facing the lake. Smith-Wimer, Inc., the Lynchburg based General Contractor estimates a nine month building period.

The ground breaking service, led by Jim Rohne, Moderator of Presbytery, contained songs, prayers and talks. Dr. Bill Morris, Associate Presbyter, stated, "Let God's people come to this Center for congregational revitalization, leadership development and personal spiritual growth," he said. "Lay people and ministers will learn new skills to use in their churches and new ideas that have been tested in other congregations that they may find useful in their own."

Presbyterian Church leaders from 16 counties have a role in the development of the Retreat Center.

Mt. Shiloh news

Sunday, August 14, 1983 is Homecoming at Mt. Shiloh Baptist Church. The Rev. Robert King of Newark, N.J. will speak for the morning service and the Rev. S.C. Terry will speak for the afternoon service.

The revival will start Monday evening, August 15, with the Rev. S.C. Terry evangelist for the week.

Prayer service will be held each evening at 7:30 and regular church services will start at 8:00. The public is invited to attend all services.

Mr. and Mrs. Evan Fleshman and daughter "Flo" are visiting relatives in Florida.

Ms. Gwendolyn and Tamera Turner are visiting their niece in Maryland.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Harvey are visiting relatives in Florida.

Mrs. William Turner is asking everyone who knows the meaning of prayer to please pray for her sister Mrs. Cassie Bullock who is very ill in Montgomery, Alabama. Also remember the sick and shut-in everywhere.

Thought for the week:

"Real optimism is the smile of faith, the song of confidence and the expression of hope."

Oakville community news

By ODELL CHAMBERS

They did it. The Men's Club had a program, "The Ten Commandeth." The largest number of men in recent memory turned out for this program at Mt. Pleasant. The Rev. Archer Watkins and his choir, of Meherrin, Va. were special guests. Hats off to the men for this beautiful program on July 31 at 3 p.m.

Odell Chambers is proud to have her son, from Honolulu, Hawaii, visit her. He is a 1970 graduate of Appomattox High School.

Some of the congregation from Mt. Pleasant attended the homecoming service at Zion Baptist in Pamplin last Sunday. The Rev. Charles Lewis delivered the morning message and the Rev. Howard Logan of Nathalie, Va., accompanied by one of his choirs, were in charge of the afternoon service.

Our sympathy goes out to Mr. Womack in the death of his wife, Alease.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Barbara Wesley is not doing so well. We pray for the sick and the shut-in everywhere.

A trip to Kings Dominion is planned for Aug. 20. The bus will be at the church at 7:30 a.m., and will leave at 8 a.m.

The Pastor's Anniversary Celebration will be held the fourth Sunday at 3 p.m. The Rev. William Watson and his choir will be special guests.

The Senior Choir will be at Zion Baptist Church Aug. 8 and at Galilee Church Aug. 11 at 8 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Gravel Hill news

"O Give thanks unto the Lord, for his mercy endureth forever."

Mrs. Phyllis Mills and daughter, Mrs. Rosetta Carter and son all spent the weekend here with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Berkley Sr.

Also visiting in that home were Mrs. Louise Epps, Mrs. B. Allen and niece, Mrs. Lisa Scott of Prospect and the Rev. and Mrs. Howard Flood of Pamplin.

Our sympathy goes out to the Watts family in the loss of Mr. Joe Watts' sister last week.

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Shasta Drink 16 Oz. Bottle 25¢
Shasta Drink 2 Liter Bottle 89¢
Jenos Pizza Hamburger, Cheese, Sausage, Pepperoni, 10 Oz. Pkg $1.09
Margarine Reischmann's, 16 Oz. Bowl $1.23
Reischmann's Regular, 16 Oz. Quarters $1.09
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Lemonade Minute Maid, 12 Oz. Can 69¢
Lemonade Minute Maid, 16 Oz. Can 87¢
Corn On The Cob Green Giant, 4 Ear Package $1.49
Orange Juice Minute Maid, 12 Oz. Can 1.19
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Van Plan

begins

(From page 4)

Van Plan is an innovative, statewide van leasing program initiated by the State Department of Highways and Transporation in April.

The program, which involves no state or federal funds, is designed to promote and encourage ride-sharing throughout the state, according to Sally H. Cooper, the department's director of rail and public transportation.

Under the plan, interested individuals or companies may lease a current model luxury van at a competitive rate which includes all operating expenses, insurance, maintenance, gasoline, oil, and tires. The department, its 17 ride-sharing co-ordinators, and participating transit operatyrs throughout the state aet as brokers for leasing the vans from a commercial firm.

Van pooling is a comfortable and efficient method for commuting to and from work, Mrs. Cooper said. She noted that it has been estimated that a member of a van pool can save about $1,200 a year, based on a 30-mile daily round trip, compared to driving the same trip alone.

Approximately 1,100 van pools are now operating in Virginia, and each van removes an estimated eight cars from the highway during rush hour.

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